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Danger in Education

Allen W. Dulles, less known than his brother, the U. S. Secretary of State, is well informed about matters around the world. As director of the Central Intelligence Agency, he has exceptional opportunity for finding out what is going on everywhere.

So his statements about the Soviet Union, made in a New York address a few days ago, must be regarded as something more than opinion. When he asserts that education of large numbers of people is necessary to the Kremlin's program for national stability but that mass education in the long run is likely to damage the Communist system of government, he is holding out a lot of hope.

All that he says in this connection makes sense. The Soviet education system, he maintains, must turn out many millions of well-conditioned members of a Communist state, persons whose thoughts can be controlled. On the other hand, there must be an ever increasing number of men and women fully prepared for places of responsibility in a technically advanced society. Right there is an invitation to trouble.

A man whose educational level is such that he can master textbooks for a post graduate course in engineering cannot necessarily be kept at the kindergarten level in such fields as economics and political science and his choice of reading may not be what the masters in the Kremlin assign. Twisting of facts regarding the non-Communist world and the distorting of history are likely to be detected by those who have been prepared for the task of analyzing information and arriving at independent judgments.

Of course one must not forget that Hitler and other dictators have sent to concentration camps educated persons who refused to stay in line.

Average education level in the Soviet Union is at about the seventh grade, Mr. Dulles estimates, and he asks what is likely to happen when a tenth grade average is attained. No revolution against totalitarianism is assured but the high command can be forced to lessen its dictatorial control.

More education means added study of developments in other countries, obviously, and such exposure of large numbers to conditions in the West is very likely to force upon the Soviet leaders an acceptance of the idea that Communism must try to co-exist with democracy. One cannot, however, dismiss the possibility that the Red chiefs might lead their country into war to

Of great interest to many Americans, certainly, is the recent attempt of the Soviet Union to tell Tito that someone in Moscow blundered when Yugoslavia was read out of the Cominform. Some of the satellites may take it for granted that a country can sass Moscow back without necessarily being punished for so doing.

It is apparent that the head of America's great intelligence agency is of the opinion that Stalin has no successor so far as absolute rule is concerned. Compromise has replaced dictatorship.

No change of United States policy is warranted in the face of recent changes in Russia. We must be strong militarily and economically. This nation can hope, though, that there will be, soon, on the part of a considerable portion of the Russian people, an awareness that countries allied against Communism are not what their masters have pictured. When there are Russians in substantial number, who can no longer be fooled, they may demand a revision of Cold War strategy that will lessen the possibility of a shooting war.